

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

[LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, XXX-XXX-XXXX]

**[LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT] to participate
in seat belt enforcement, booster seat education campaign**

[CITY/TOWN] – The [LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT] will participate in a statewide safety belt enforcement blitz to highlight the booster seat law that will take effect on July 1.

“We will be on the lookout for and ticketing those violating Indiana’s existing safety belt laws, but we also want to make sure people are prepared for the important changes that will take place this summer,” said [DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON].

The new law will require all children under eight to be properly secured in child safety seats or booster seats. It also will require all kids up to age 16 to be properly restrained in a child restraint system or a safety belt in all seating positions in all vehicles. Those over age 16 must be restrained when riding in the front seat of passenger vehicles.

Increased safety belt enforcement and booster seat education will take place from February 6 to February 19. A statewide media outreach campaign will coincide with the enforcement period.

In the United States, an average of six children 0-14 years old were killed and 694 were injured every day in motor vehicle crashes during 2003.

Children, as they grow, should progress through three types of child safety seats before using the safety belt alone: (1) rear-facing seats to (2) forward-facing seats to (3) booster seats.

Booster seats raise children up so that safety belts fit properly. Eighty-three percent of children between the ages of four and eight are inappropriately placed in adult safety belts.

Those who violate the new law will commit a Class D infraction, which carries a \$25 fine. However, offenders can avoid the fine if they prove that they have obtained an adequate restraint system for their children. Fines collected under the law will be deposited into a state fund that will be used to make grants to public and private organizations for the purchase and distribution of child restraint systems to those who are otherwise unable to afford them.

This campaign is sponsored by the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Federal funding for the initiative is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information regarding child passenger safety, please contact the Automotive Safety Program at 1-800-KID-N-CAR or visit www.preventinjury.org.